A3350-1 12/21/83

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 1983

ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS
20 NORTH WACKER DRIVE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
312-984-5800
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: 1901 L STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036, 202-466-3350

AHAM

APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS CONTINUE AT RECORD LEVEL

CHICAGO -- Major household appliance shipments in November were 33% ahead of the same month last year, making this the best November ever, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM). November's shipments exceeded 2.8 million units -- 700,000 units more than in November 1982.

Based on November's record-breaking performance, the Association predicts total appliance shipments for 1983 will exceed 32 million units -- 3.5 million more units than earlier industry forecasts for the year -- making 1983 the best year for the appliance industry since 1979.

The improvement in appliance shipments reflects the increasing strength of the economic recovery. During the fourth quarter of 1982, which marked the turning point, appliance shipments were up 8.3%. As the economy gained momentum in 1983, so did major appliances. Shipments were up 22.4% in the first half of this year, and up 31.6% in the last five months. (These figures exclude room air conditioners which are highly dependent on weather conditions.)

Since July, total shipments have exceeded 14.5 million units to set an all-time high for the five-month period. The new record surpasses the previous record established in the corresponding period of 1973 -- the industry's all-time record year -- by 300,000 units.

(MORE)

November was the best month in history for disposers (393,000 units) and the second best month for microwave ovens (648,100 units). Monthly increases ranged from 18% to 83% for all categories except room air conditioners, compactors and freezers. Year-to-date shipments through November were up nearly 21%.

# # #

MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE FACTORY SHIPMENTS THOUSANDS OF UNITS
(Domestic Plus Export)
November, 1983

	November 1983	November 1982	% Change	Calendar Year to Date 1983	1982	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	2,819.8	2,115.6*	+33.3%	29,957.3	24,791.7*	+20.8%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	52.0	70.8	-26.6	1,902.9	2,676.1	-28.9
DEHUMIDIFIERS	4.4	2.4*	+83.3	429.7	436.6*	- 1.6
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	302.2	206.4	+46.4	2,848.5	1,991.8	+43.0
Built-In	276.8	183.2	+51.1	2,613.5	1,796.2	+45.5
Portable	25.4	23.2	+ 9.5	234.9	195.6	+20.1
DISPOSERS	393.0	259.1*	+51.7	3,369.5	2,543.0*	+32.5
COMPACTORS	13.6	12.9*	+ 5.4	140.7	134.9*	+ 4.3
REFRIGERATION - TOTAL	482.8	389.5	+24.0	6,205.4	5,368.4	+15.6
Refrigerators	410.4	310.0	+32.4	4,994.9	4,101.3	+21.8
Freezers - Total	72.4	79.5	- 8.9	1,210.5	1,267.2	- 4.5
Upright	37.3	35.9	+ 3.9	568.6	578.0	- 1.6
Chest	35.0	43.6	-19.7	641.9	689.2	- 6.9
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	253.9	195.2	+30.1	2,540.8	1,860.8	+36.5
Free Standing	200.5	156.7	+28.0	2,022.3	1,479.6	+36.7
Built-In	53.4	38.4*	+39.1	518.5	381.2*	+36.0
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	648.1	423.8	+52.9	5,342.7	3,636.4	+46.9
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	690.1	570.2	+21.0	7,367.7	6,302.1	+16.9
Washers - Total	377.1	318.8	+18.3	4,323.4	3,767.2	+14.8
Automatic	372.7	313.9	+18.7	4,259.0	3,707.9	+14.9
Wringer & Other	4.5	5.0	-10.0	64.3	59.3	+ 8.4
Dryers - Total	312.9	251.4	+24.5	3,044.3	2,534.9	+20.1
Electric	245.6	195.2	+25.8	2,421.9	1,991.3	+21.6
Gas	67.3	56.2	+19.8	622.5	543.6	+14.5

* Revised
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories
*** Includes U.S. produced and imported microwave ovens and combination microwave oven/ranges